

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: Five-week Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders on Women's Leadership

The Public Affairs Section (PAS) is soliciting nominations of **current female undergraduate students** for a five-week Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders on Women's Leadership to participate in the program in the U.S. Currently enrolled undergraduate students from Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Mongolia, Morocco, and Pakistan interested in the topic of Women's Leadership may be nominated to participate in this institute. **U.S. government employees (LES and American staff) are not eligible for any Public Affairs/Public Diplomacy scholarship programs.**

Program dates are Saturday, June 22 to Saturday, July 27, 2013. The host institution will be announced at a later time. Applications are due to PAS by 11:59 p.m. on **December 22, 2012** via the KabulPASExchange@state.gov mailbox.

Institute Description:

Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) for Student Leaders are intensive academic programs whose purpose is to provide groups of current undergraduate student leaders with a deeper understanding of the United States, while simultaneously enhancing their leadership skills. The Institutes will consist of a balanced series of seminar discussions, readings, group presentations, and lectures. The coursework and classroom activities will be complemented by educational travel, site visits, leadership activities, and volunteer opportunities. The Institutes will include an academic residency component of approximately four weeks and a domestic study tour of approximately one week. During the academic residency, participants will also have the opportunity to engage in educational and cultural activities outside of the classroom.

Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders on Women Leadership

Pending availability of funds and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) award approval, this Study of the U.S. Institute for Women's Leadership will examine the history and participation of women in public life in the United States. The Institute will focus on two major areas: (1) Developing participants' leadership skills in areas such as critical thinking, communication, decision-making, and managerial abilities; and, (2) Placing these abilities in the context of the history and participation of women in U.S. politics, economics, culture, and society. The Institute will examine the historical domestic progress towards women's equality in the United States, the current domestic successes and challenges to women in a variety of fields, and current challenges in global women's issues. The academic residency will be complemented by an educational study tour that will take participants to other locations in the United States where they will meet with local, state, private, and nonprofit organizations working in the field. The program will conclude in Washington, D.C. with a closing conference including women from three other Institutes on Women's Leadership. The joint conference is tentatively scheduled for **July 24, 2013**. ECA will cover all participant costs, including: program

administration; domestic travel and ground transportation; book, cultural, mailing and incidental allowances; and housing and subsistence. Successful applicants' international travel costs will be arranged and paid for by the US Embassy.

Who can apply for the program?

The participants are expected to be highly motivated first through third year undergraduate students **currently enrolled** in colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education, who demonstrate leadership through academic work, community involvement, and extracurricular activities. Their fields of study can vary, and may include the sciences, social sciences, humanities, education, business, and other professional fields. Emphasis should be made on recruiting participants from non-elite backgrounds, from both rural and urban sectors, and with little or no prior experience in the United States or elsewhere outside their home country. In addition, recruitment of participants should be focused on historically underserved, indigenous groups, and ethnic minority communities.

English language fluency: It is imperative that all candidates demonstrate English language fluency. Institutes are rigorous and demanding programs; participants will be expected to handle substantial reading assignments in English and to be full and active participants in all seminar and panel discussions. English fluency is vital to a successful experience in the institute.

Priority consideration: Studies of the U.S. Institutes are highly competitive. Priority should be given to the participants who are interested in the topic of Women's Leadership. Additionally, successful applicants will:

- Generally be between 18 and 25 years of age; however, candidates 26-30 will still be considered.
- **Have at least one semester left of their undergraduate studies**, and therefore be committed to return to their home universities following completion of the program; this is absolute. **There are no exceptions.**
- Demonstrate strong leadership qualities and potential in their university and community activities;
- Indicate a serious interest in learning about the United States;
- Have a sustained high level of academic achievement, as indicated by grades, awards, and teacher recommendations;
- Demonstrate commitment to community and extracurricular university activities;
- Have little or no prior study or travel experience in the United States or elsewhere outside of their home country;
- Be mature, responsible, independent, confident, open- indeed, tolerant, thoughtful, and inquisitive;

- Be willing and able to fully participate in an intensive academic program, community service, and educational travel; and,
- Be comfortable with campus life, prepared to share living accommodations, and able to make adjustments to cultural and social practices different from those of their home country.
- **Not be a U.S. government employee.** LES and American staff are **not eligible** for any Public Affairs/Public Diplomacy scholarship programs.

How to nominate a candidate:

Nominations should be coordinated by Embassy section or regional platform. In addition to the basic information in the attached form, a complete nomination package should include the following:

- **Justification:** Specific reasons why the participation of a nominee is particularly desirable for or suited to the program. Please address the desired qualifications listed at the bottom of the announcement and give examples wherever possible to demonstrate the applicant's ability to meet those. Why, in short, does the nomination matter? Information about the candidate's prior experiences in the U.S. should also be included. If you are self applicant you don't need to write the justification, leave it blank.
- ☐ The aforementioned priority considerations will be taken into account when selecting applicants.
- **Candidate Personal Statement:** Each candidate should provide a short personal statement (2-3 paragraphs) indicating why she is interested in participating in the program and what she expects to get out of the experience.
 - **Candidate CV:** This document should include the candidate's educational and work experience, as well as any extracurricular activities related to the institute.
 - **Candidate Application:** Each candidate must complete the application form of the Study of U.S. Institute for Student Leaders on Women Leadership. The applications will be available on the U.S. Embassy website on Thursday, November 29th.
(<http://kabul.usembassy.gov/susi.html>)

The candidate must submit the completed application packet to the email KabulPasExchange@state.gov by the deadline of **December 22nd**. The candidate must write their own personal statement without assistance. Nominators can either add their statements to the application or submit their justifications separately to KabulPDEXchanges@state.gov. All

emails by candidates and nominators should have the title of the program and the candidate's name in the subject heading, i.e. "SUSI Women's Leadership – [candidate name]."

Key Program Information:

The final nomination(s) from Mission Afghanistan will be determined by the U.S. Embassy PAS in accordance with the program objectives and guidelines. U.S. Embassy PAS will handle all logistics concerning any accepted nominee's participation. Please note the points below:

- Housing will be in university dorms, a full service hotel, or with local host families. Participants may be expected to share a room and bathroom with another student of the same gender. Most meals will be provided at campus facilities, though participants may have access to a kitchen to cook some meals on their own. It is important that nominees are aware of these arrangements and that they are comfortable with such accommodations. The host institution will provide selected participants with further information about the housing and meal arrangements at a later date.
- Participants are expected to participate fully in the program. They are expected to attend all lectures and organized activities, and complete assigned readings.
- Family members and/or friends cannot accompany participants on any part of the program.
- Please note that teaching methodology and pedagogical methods will not be addressed formally in the institute. Candidates should be made aware that the institute is very intensive and that there will be little time for personal pursuits unrelated to the program. The institute should not be viewed as a research program.

It is important that these requirements and restrictions be made clear to all candidates before nominations are submitted. Applications will be reviewed by a panel in Cultural Affairs at Embassy Kabul and selections will be made for interviews. Successful candidates will be notified of their interview time by email within two weeks of the deadline.

Questions ?

Please address any questions about this program to KabulPDExchanges@state.gov.